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## Sen. Brown Calls on Congress to Protect Marriage

*Backs Constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman*

**WEDNESDAY, September 24, 2003** – State Sen. Cameron S. Brown introduced a resolution last week that urges Congress to adopt and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The Senate Resolution (S.R. 150) is co-sponsored by 18 senators.

“This is a strong statement of support for marriage, the cornerstone of the family, which is the bedrock of western civilization,” said Brown, R-Fawn River Township. “The book of Ecclesiastes says there is a time to remain silent and a time to speak. Now is a time to speak.”

In recent years, several events, including some that have taken place in Canada, have caused concern that the legal definition of what constitutes a marriage could be changed to include relationships other than between a man and a woman.

Many believe that so called “same-sex marriages,” and the notion of conferring full legal status to unmarried couples or groups, poses a threat to the institution of marriage.

While many states, including Michigan, have taken steps to adopt legislation to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman, full legal protections for the institution of marriage can only be assured through the ratification of an amendment to the highest law of the land - the U.S. Constitution.

A measure currently before Congress, H.J. Res. 56, proposes an amendment to clarify this key issue.

“There are those who choose to pursue a path to redefine marriage and I think that would put us on the wrong path as a culture and as a society,” said Brown. “We must affirm the Judeo-Christian ethic. We must say that some things are sacred. We must affirm that which is of the highest value.”

Upon passage, copies of Sen. Brown’s resolution will be transmitted to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.